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United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean from July 2017 to June 2018.

During that period, the Centre undertook 115 technical, legal and policy assistance activities to assist Latin American and Caribbean States, at their request, with the implementation of international instruments relating to conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction.

With a view to supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Centre provided technical training to more than 2,500 national officials of Member States on the marking, tracing and interdiction of weapons at entry/exit points, stockpile management and the destruction of small arms. Support was also provided to States to aid in the incorporation of stockpile management standards and standard operating procedures into the small arms control practices of private security companies. The Centre worked closely with Central American States in supporting their implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, while research was conducted to raise awareness of ammunition controls and trends in the region.

The Centre provided legislative, policy and capacity-building assistance to 462 personnel of national authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean to enhance the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors. The Centre also developed tools to aid States in elaborating control lists and strengthening their licensing regimes to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass

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destruction and delivered capacity-building assistance to prevent proliferation in the context of maritime and port security.

The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to those Member States and other partners that supported the Centre's operation and programmes with financial and in-kind contributions and calls upon those in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Centre in order to sustain and further develop its activities in response to the increasing requests for assistance and cooperation by Member States in the region. The Secretary-General is particularly thankful to Peru for its long-standing support, as host country, for the Centre for more than 30 years.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 72/61, the General Assembly reiterated its strong support for the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of peace, disarmament and development among its Member States and encouraged the Centre to further develop activities in all countries of the region in the areas of peace, disarmament and development and to provide, upon request and in accordance with its mandate, support to Member States' initiatives in those areas at the regional and subregional levels.

2. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution at its seventy-third session. In the present report, submitted pursuant to that request, the main activities carried out by the Centre from July 2017 to June 2018 are highlighted. A financial statement on the status of the trust fund for the Centre in 2017 is contained in the annex to the present report.

II. Functioning and mandate

3. The Centre, located in Lima, was established in 1987, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/60 J. It is mandated to provide, at their request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States in the region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development.

III. Main areas of activity

4. During the reporting period, the Centre undertook 115 technical, legal and training assistance activities to support States in the region in their efforts to implement disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control instruments and adhere to international standards and norms in those fields. The following paragraphs provide an overview of the main areas of activity of the Centre. Further details are provided in subsequent sections.

5. In line with international standards, the Centre supported the destruction of 18,000 obsolete weapons in Peru and provided technical assistance to Colombia in the destruction of more than 3,600 weapons laid down during the first phase of implementation of the peace agreement. This historic process also led to the destruction of 1.7 million rounds of ammunition.

6. In efforts to support the law enforcement community to mitigate the diversion of weapons, the Centre delivered x-ray identification training to more than 80 front-line responders, resulting in four reported interdictions in countries in which the training courses had been delivered.

7. To promote international standards in the investigation and prosecution of firearms-related cases, the Centre built the capacity of more than 170 security sector officials from the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago. As a result of those specialized training courses, the first potential "match" in the Americas was identified in the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Ballistic Information Network in 2017 between a firearm recovered in Belize and markings for Guatemala.

8. The Centre helped to enhance State capacity to apply relevant international physical security standards in managing arms and ammunition stockpile facilities

among private security personnel, leading to a reduced risk of the weapons being diverted for illicit use.

9. Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Centre aligned its activities to implement and advance the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16 ("Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels"), by engaging young people in measuring violence and insecurity through participatory indicators.

10. Furthermore, continuing a multi-agency project in northern Peru, the Centre worked with some 90 young people and adults to raise awareness about and seek solutions to the growing phenomenon of firearms possession and use in schools.

11. Feeding into public debate, the Centre published two new studies on ammunition control practices and trends in Latin America and the Caribbean.

12. With a view to providing continuity to State efforts to implement the Arms Trade Treaty, the Centre offered training and technical assistance to 125 officials from Barbados, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala.

13. To support the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), the Centre assisted Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago in drafting new legislation and defining national priorities for national action plans. Its assistance resulted in the presentation of two national action plans by Belize and Peru.

14. Making use of recently produced guidelines on the development of national control lists, the Centre assisted the Dominican Republic in the adoption and creation of an operational focus list for the control of strategic goods. Likewise, the Centre developed guidelines for the adoption of standardized licensing protocols. Similar exercises were held on conventional weapons control in various Central American and Caribbean States.

15. Lastly, the Centre continued its efforts to promote the participation of women in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation initiatives, in line with General Assembly resolution 65/69 on the subject. Overall, the activities undertaken by the Centre reached some 1,000 women (37 per cent of total participation).

A. Public security programme

1. Providing technical assistance in weapons destruction

16. In compliance with international instruments and norms, including the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (International Tracing Instrument), the Centre provided technical assistance to the Peruvian army in destroying and permanently removing from circulation more than 18,000 obsolete weapons, including firearms (pistols, revolvers, rifles, grenade launchers and machine guns) and parts and components of conventional arms (predominantly cannons of rocket launchers) in August 2017. Destruction activities were carried out in accordance with the generic standard operating procedures developed by the Centre on, among other things, handling and safety, equipment operations and independent monitoring and verification. Those standard operating procedures, transmitted through a training workshop for some 50 army officials, will serve as the basis for internal procedures of the Peruvian army to guide future destruction processes.

2. Supporting the Colombian peace process

17. At the request of the United Nations Mission in Colombia, the Centre finalized its contribution to the "laying down of arms" component of the historic peace process negotiated between the Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army. The Centre's support involved providing input into the logistical planning for the laying down of arms process and sharing its expertise on methods and techniques for the deactivation of small arms and light weapons. The Centre's assistance culminated in September 2017 with hands-on technical support in the destruction of some 9,000 small arms and 1,765,000 rounds of ammunition.

18. The initiative was the first time that the Office for Disarmament Affairs had contributed to a formal disarmament process in the region. The technical operating procedures developed by the Centre, which are based on international standards and best practices, including the International Small Arms Control Standards and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, were applied in the implementation of the peace agreement.

3. Supporting weapons interdictions through x-ray technology

19. Since the establishment of the Centre in the region, the law enforcement community has been both a partner in, and recipient of, technical assistance from the Centre. The Centre continued to work with front-line responders to mitigate the diversion of weapons through training initiatives and the provision of practical tools.

20. More than 80 law enforcement officials from the Dominican Republic and Uruguay benefited from two specialized national training sessions in November 2017 and April 2018, respectively, intended to facilitate the interdiction of small arms, parts, components and ammunition trafficked through the mail, parcels and baggage. The course made use of the Centre's state-of-the-art x-ray identification guide developed in collaboration with the Switzerland-based Center for Adaptive Security Research and Applications. This pioneering guide provides postal, customs and border agents with the tools necessary to detect and identify weapons being illicitly shipped through the postal service. The guide will help to counter this new trafficking modality, which has gone virtually uncontrolled thus far.

21. The training courses had a clear impact in the field, with one interdiction reported in the Dominican Republic and three in Uruguay. The courses and tools represent examples of the practical work undertaken by the Centre in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action in the field with tangible and immediate results and impact.

4. Improving small arms tracing capacity

22. The Centre continued to support the strengthening of national ballistics systems in the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago with a view to combating illicit trafficking in small arms, light weapons and ammunition and reducing armed violence. That assistance also substantively contributed to State implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

23. The Centre delivered specialized security sector training to some 130 officials from the above-mentioned countries in its promotion of international standards in the investigation and prosecution of firearms-related cases. The courses were focused on reinforcing standardized operational forensic procedures vis-à-vis the proper handling and processing of firearms-related evidence found at crime scenes. Adequate gathering of information and collection of physical evidence of firearms and ammunition depend on crime scene management and the chain of custody, as well as

on information that could subsequently be used in the criminal investigation, and substantially increase the probability that a perpetrator will be convicted and impunity reduced.

24. Contributing to harmonized efforts in developing a sound national strategy for the investigation and prosecution of firearms-related cases and illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition, the Centre engaged in efforts to increase the capacity of close to 40 forensic examiners and laboratory personnel from the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago in the preparation of double-cast moulds, through on-site training and the donation of equipment. The resin-based moulds, or casts, represent exact replicas of a fired bullet or cartridge case extracted from a crime scene. By sending replicas across jurisdictions for comparison rather than original evidence, the chain of custody is undisturbed and the integrity of the real-life evidence is not jeopardized.

25. As a clear indicator of the impact of the training and improved sharing of information across jurisdictions, the first potential "match" in the Americas was identified in the INTERPOL Ballistic Information Network in 2017 between a firearm recovered in Belize with markings for Guatemala. Double casts were prepared from the test-fired cartridge cases from the weapon and sent to the National Institute of Forensic Sciences of Guatemala in April 2018 for confirmation. The Belizean authorities are awaiting the results of microscopic comparison for confirmation of the match.

26. To further improve the sharing of information between States, the Centre organized two subregional meetings on forensic ballistics, one in the Dominican Republic in August 2017 and the other in Peru in May 2018, reaching some 60 participants, including State representatives, experts and regional and international organizations. The events underscored the importance of high-quality management systems in laboratories in support of the Regional Integrated Ballistic Information Network and as an essential component in facilitating mutual assistance and effective collaboration in forensic examinations. High-quality management and sound national strategies allow States to develop and rely upon national systems to undertake and cooperate in confidential tracing.

27. To build capacity in regional forensic laboratories, improve the work output of ballistic experts and reduce risks while improving the long-term health and safety of staff, the Centre procured specialized equipment and technology for conducting test-fires and functional testing for Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. The state-of-the-art equipment, including refurbished indoor ranges and containerized test-fire ranges, contributes to the high-quality management of evidence and improved casework, thereby enhancing State capacity to meet marking and record-keeping responsibilities under the International Tracing Instrument.

5. Standardized marking practices

28. Pursuant to article 8 of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, by which States are to require appropriate simple marking on each imported firearm, permitting the identification of the country of import and, where possible, the year of import and enabling the competent authorities of that country to trace the firearm, the Centre procured a laser marking machine in March 2018 to be able to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to States in the secondary marking of firearms, thus reinforcing tracing mechanisms in the region. The Centre undertook the first on-site mission in June 2018, using the marking machine in Trinidad and Tobago. There, the Centre not only contributed to initial dialogue among national

authorities on secondary firearms marking, but also provided hands-on technical assistance by carrying out a pilot marking session on 21 and 22 June, with 12 participants.

6. Promoting small arms control practices among private security companies

29. International standards have also led to a joint project intended to strengthen the capacity of Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Jamaica and Mexico to control small arms under the ownership of private security companies and to promote good governance in the sector. The project, which was implemented in conjunction with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, is aimed at addressing the continuing increase in the privatization of security in the region through support for the application of the International Small Arms Control Standards, the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines and the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers.

30. If State capacity to apply these international physical security standards in the management of arms and ammunition in warehouses is increased, the risk of the weapons being diverted for illicit use is minimized. In that context, technical assistance was provided in Guatemala in July 2017 to aid in the incorporation of stockpile management standards and standard operating procedures into the small arms control practices of private security companies through the delivery of two technical workshops for 65 private security company employees in charge of overseeing and managing arms warehouses. In October 2017, Guatemala benefited from a Centre-led baseline assessment of the status of its private security sector, which included recommendations on addressing the challenges with regard to oversight and accountability, as well as small arms control in general.

31. To expand the geographical scope of the project in response to requests from States, the Centre and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces launched private security company-based activities in Jamaica in November 2017 and in Mexico in March 2018. Both sets of activities — reaching more than 260 personnel from private security companies and national entities — included an executive seminar to raise awareness of private security regulations and small arms control, technical workshops on international standards vis-à-vis physical security and stockpile management and baseline studies similar to those carried out in Guatemala. In particular, in Jamaica, the Centre conducted voluntary assessments of armouries and storage facilities in two private security companies, making recommendations on measures that could be taken to comply with the International Small Arms Control Standards and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines. In Mexico, the Centre carried out a second executive seminar and technical workshop on international standards for physical security and stockpile management on 27 June 2017.

32. Aware that the excessive use of force and firearms by private security company agents poses a problem to governance and security, the Centre incorporated the topic of use of force in the private security sector into its strategic approach to private sector outreach. In that context, the Centre, in association with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, organized three technical workshops for close to 100 personnel of national authorities in the three beneficiary Central American countries. The workshops served as a platform to generate debate on norms and policies on the use of force in the provision of private security services. Upon request, the Centre also held a round-table discussion on less lethal weapons for more than 60 representatives of government authorities in Mexico in May 2018, which was aimed at encouraging debates on the use of such devices by private security companies and their respective control and regulation regime, taking into account normative, legal and technical considerations. The Centre led sessions on the challenges posed and

opportunities offered by the use of alternative devices, such as less lethal weapons, in maintaining public order, for example when used by security agents while on duty, as well as the roles and responsibilities of Governments and the private sector in regulating the use of force in that field.

33. In that connection, legal workshops on less lethal weapons were conducted in Colombia in October 2017 and in the Dominican Republic in June 2018. They pertained to specific categories, definitions and classifications, including scope of use and effect. In Colombia, that technical information fed into national discussions on regulations vis-à-vis less lethal weapons. In addition, and with a view to assessing the most relevant technical dimensions from a regulatory and policy point of view, the Centre created a new technical classification guide for less lethal weapons, which will be formally presented in July 2018.

7. Focusing on young people as agents of change to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

34. In the 2030 Agenda, it is recognized that children and young women and men are critical agents of change. In support of that assertion, the Centre, in collaboration with the United Nations Volunteers programme, implemented a project in 2017 to create spaces for young people to enhance their knowledge of Sustainable Development Goal 16 and engage in meaningful dialogue on peace, security and civic participation. More than 400 young volunteers from Colombia, Honduras, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago partnered with the Centre to develop some 200 community-based indicators to measure progress in attaining target 16.4 ("By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime").

35. The indicators were presented to local authorities in all participating States as a means of gaining political influence for improved implementation and monitoring of Goal 16. The rigour with which the indicators were created and later presented showcased the transformation of the young volunteers into agents of change and disarmament, as called for by the Secretary-General in his agenda for disarmament, equipped to advocate the enforcement of local policies that respond to the security-related needs of their communities.

36. The link between young people and peace and security was also maintained through a multi-agency project in northern Peru. In December 2017, the Centre brought together close to 90 participants, including representatives of youth and parent associations, education boards and local and municipal governments responsible for citizen security, to tackle the growing phenomenon of firearms possession and use in schools. Thematic experts from Argentina, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru shared lessons learned and best practices to contribute to programmatic development, while the Centre created momentum among stakeholders in identifying possible joint interventions and collaborative action to respond to the challenge.

37. In further efforts to work with young people in northern Peru, in November 2017 the Centre engaged nearly 80 university students in a dialogue aimed at identifying specific ways of mainstreaming gender perspectives into small arms control processes and public policy discourse on reducing armed violence. The incorporation of gender components is essential for all relevant small arms control initiatives and operations, at all stages, from information gathering and planning to implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

8. Symposium on women and security

38. Pursuant to the recognition by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control of the valuable contribution of women to practical disarmament measures, the Centre convened its first symposium on women and security in Peru in December 2017. More than 40 women from the region dedicating their work to advancing the global peace and security agenda participated in the symposium, which provided a forum to present future strategies of the United Nations system to promote women and security in the region, to deliberate on how the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals could contribute to improving the lives of women in the region and to explore approaches to strengthening arms control to that end. Throughout the event, ample time was dedicated to identifying and sharing new ideas on empowering women working in the fields of peace and security.

39. The symposium also served as a platform to launch the Centre's publication entitled "Forces of change III", in which Latin American and Caribbean women share experiences on disarmament, security and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Highlighted therein is the importance of women as policymakers, diplomats, security officers, justice officials and representatives of civil society organizations, among other things, in advancing their roles. Women's valuable contributions to and leadership in achieving sustainable peace and development are recognized.

40. As a means of maintaining the momentum generated, the Centre launched a related professional networking page, which will serve as a "go-to" site to stay in touch with other women working in the security field and to exchange information on relevant work-related issues.

41. In the light of that unique gathering of women professionals from the region and beyond, the Centre presented a legal study to cross-reference small arms legislation with domestic violence provisions in Peru. It included a recommendation to incorporate into small arms legislation restrictions on the acquisition of guns and ammunition by anyone convicted of domestic and/or interpersonal violence. After the presentation, there were discussions on the importance of enhancing the gender accountability of policy and legal responses to illicit small arms trafficking.

9. Raising awareness of ammunition controls and trends in the region

42. During the past two decades, controls on small arms and light weapons have been strengthened by the adoption of a set of key international instruments and recently highlighted in target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Nevertheless, while controls on the production and sale of weapons are becoming more stringent, those on ammunition are lagging. Hence, in efforts to support States in their disarmament and arms control efforts in general and in preventing and combating ammunition proliferation in particular, the Centre conducted a study on ammunition control practices in the region, navigating through the international instruments, standards, guidelines and practices vis-à-vis ammunition controls with a view to making security frameworks more rigorous and comprehensive. In its conclusion, the Centre outlined a way forward for Latin American and Caribbean Governments, regional and subregional bodies, the United Nations system, donor countries and civil society through recommendations on practical measures to improve ammunition controls at the regional and international levels.

43. In a parallel initiative, the Centre launched a second study, focusing on ammunition trends in the region, to raise international awareness of the impact of ammunition proliferation in undermining public security and, consequently, to

generate a comprehensive analysis of relevant information and intelligence in efforts to combat firearms-related crime. The study benefited from a 10-day on-site visit to the Dominican Republic in March 2018 during which the Centre was given access to data on ammunition seizures conducted by the national customs authorities. Through that real-life analysis, the Centre was able to create a "profile" (date, location, type of incident, gender of victims and perpetrators, calibre, length, import marking and brand/manufacturer) of ammunition found at crime scenes in the country throughout 2017 and to incorporate it into the Centre's in-house data systematization methodology.

44. The results of both studies were presented at side events on the margins of the third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York in June 2018.

45. The Centre and the Conventional Arms Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs undertook two back-to-back regional meetings in Peru and Trinidad and Tobago in February 2018 for some 90 national officials to prepare States for the third Review Conference.

B. Supporting the implementation of multilateral instruments relating to conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction

1. Arms Trade Treaty

46. The Centre continued to support the strengthening of State implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty through training courses and technical assistance provided to some 130 government officials. The Centre supported three States in the region in complying with their reporting obligations under the Treaty by convening a subregional workshop in Barbados in July 2017 and five technical workshops, in El Salvador in November 2017 and January and April 2018, and Guatemala in February and April 2018, dealing with topics ranging from the identification of conventional weapons, ammunition, parts and components to the step-by-step creation and identification of the main functions of national control systems under the Treaty.

47. In addition, as a result of Treaty-related joint efforts by the Centre, the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica and the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control, Costa Rica formally established its Treaty national control system through a presidential decree. The Centre's support included the launching of its Treaty implementation course in October 2014, and participation in subsequent activities led by the German Federal Office, and the provision of specific assistance towards the conformation of the system in May 2016. As a complementary step, Costa Rica is finalizing its national control list in alignment with the Treaty's provision calling for the development of an effective and transparent national control system.

48. As in previous reporting periods, the Centre provided legal support to El Salvador in November 2017 by holding a legislative round-table discussion for 25 representatives of six ministries and agencies to review the minimum normative requirements for the national legal architecture to fully comply with the provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty. Discussions revolved around the content of the specific legislation, possible regulatory gaps and a new draft decree aimed at creating a national authority for the Treaty. The Treaty-related assistance delivered to both countries is funded by the voluntary trust fund for the Treaty. The overall aim of the

projects is to provide continuity to State efforts to implement the Treaty, with the Centre acting as the main implementing partner.

49. International partners continued to call upon the Centre to share its expertise relating to the Treaty. For example, in efforts to support the European Union Arms Trade Treaty outreach project, the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control continued to look to the Centre to contribute to national dialogue on the development of Treaty road maps, with particular focus on export control lists, licensing systems, risk assessments and diversion prevention. In addition, the Centre provided technical support to launch an academy on the Treaty for Latin America, organized by Control Arms in Mexico in April 2017, and participated in the seventh meeting of the expert group on the implementation of the Treaty, convened by Saferworld in Canada in May 2017.

2. Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

50. The Centre provided support to eight States in the region in their implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The support included legal assistance in drafting processes pertaining to weapons of mass destruction, technical guidance in the elaboration and/or implementation of national action plans, specialized capacity-building assistance and tools and the promotion of regional dialogue on issues of non-proliferation concern.

51. Thanks to the support provided by the Centre and its partners (the group of experts of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the Caribbean Community) during the previous reporting period, both Belize and Peru formally presented their national action plans to the Committee in July 2017. Likewise, important advances were made, with the help of the Centre, in Guyana and Suriname in the consolidation of their plans. The national authorities from both countries committed themselves to continuing to develop the plans and eventually submit them to the Committee. The Centre provided Guyana, in August 2017, and Antigua and Barbuda, in July 2017, with national legal studies containing recommendations on how to more closely align their national legislative frameworks with their obligations under resolution 1540 (2004).

52. The need to strengthen regulatory frameworks to improve the implementation of the resolution was identified in the national action plans of various beneficiary States. In response, the Centre organized a workshop to introduce instruments pertaining to weapons of mass destruction to close to 50 participants from relevant ministries in August 2017, which was followed up in August 2017 by its providing technical support to more than 20 national authority personnel in Peru in developing a draft law on improved harmonization between national legislation and the obligations found in the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriolcgical (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. In March 2018, the Dominican Republic announced the approval of its bill relating to weapons of mass destruction and requested the Centre's ongoing assistance to develop complementary regulations.

53. With the purpose of facilitating dialogue at the subregional level among Member States and regional organizations on the implications of a future fissile material cut-off treaty, the Centre and the Geneva-based branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs delivered two training workshops in Peru (19 and 20 March 2018) for Latin American States and in Trinidad and Tobago (21 and 22 June 2018) for Caribbean States, reaching some 40 participants. The purpose of the workshops was to increase the capacity of States to participate in potential future negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty and to discuss the relationship of the future treaty with existing global and regional instruments.

54. Practical training has also been identified as a top priority for many countries in the region seeking to improve the practical enforcement of obligations pertaining to weapons of mass destruction. As a result, the Centre conducted numerous joint specialized training courses, targeting some 140 national authority personnel. In Peru, the Centre collaborated with the International Maritime Organization in September 2017 to boost the country's capacity to tackle issues of concern with regard to proliferation within the ambit of maritime and port security through practical tabletop exercises. In March 2018, in the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago, the Centre delivered targeted training, in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States of America, to 93 front-line national authority personnel on explosives and hazardous materials, with a special focus on improvised explosive devices and explosive precursor chemicals commonly found in the region. Moreover, a nine-country Caribbean-wide regional workshop was held in the Dominican Republic in November 2017, in collaboration with the World Customs Organization, on bolstering strategic trade control enforcement. Training included how to detect materials and technology pertaining to weapons of mass destruction, so as to support State implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

55. On the basis of requests by Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago for support in strengthening relations with industry in the field of weapons of mass destruction, the Centre hosted two national industry stakeholder workshops in July 2017 to introduce to 39 personnel in the sector topics pertaining to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and increase awareness about dual-use goods and technologies. In February 2018, the Centre launched its newly developed licensing guide at the national level in Trinidad and Tobago. It was formally launched at the regional level at a regional seminar on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) held in the Dominican Republic in March 2018, with the participation of 65 national personnel from beneficiary States. The guide serves as the most recent regulatory tool in the Centre's toolkit of products to boost the implementation of the resolution throughout the region and complements the Centre's guide to control lists, which was formally launched during a regional seminar on strategic trade and border controls held in Peru in April 2017.

56. The Centre's assistance with control lists continued to bear fruit, with the Dominican Republic launching the region's first control list at the national level in March 2018. Likewise, specific technical support was provided to Belize in October 2017 and Trinidad and Tobago in February 2018, targeting 42 national authority personnel to aid in their process of developing control lists that are compliant with resolution 1540 (2004). The list is intended to provide front-line trade control officials with a functioning, easy-access tool for enhanced control over strategic trade and to bring States' national control lists — containing items from the main strategic trade control regimes — into compliance with the resolution.

IV. Staffing, financing and administration

A. Finances

57. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/60 J, the Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions made by Member States and interested organizations for its core and programme activities. In 2017, voluntary contributions to the Centre's trust fund were received in the amount of $1,484,911. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to the Centre's donors, in particular the Governments of Canada, Germany, Sweden and the United States, and to the Arms Trade Treaty voluntary trust fund and the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control for their ongoing financial support. Those

contributions enabled the Centre to continue to assist Member States in the region, at their request.

58. The Secretary-General also expresses his appreciation to Mexico, Panama and Peru for their financial contributions to the Centre. He continues to encourage financial and in-kind contributions to the Centre from Latin American and Caribbean States as a clear indication of the value that Member States place on the Centre's expertise and technical assistance.

59. The Secretary-General wishes to thank all States and partners for their generous contributions to and support for the Centre and encourages their continuous support to ensure that the Centre can continue to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to Member States in the region, at their request, in fulfilment of its mandate. Information on the status of the trust fund for the Centre for 2017 is contained in the annex to the present report.

B. Staffing and administration

60. The regular budget of the United Nations funds the posts of one Senior Political Affairs Officer/Director of the Centre (P-5), one Political Affairs Officer (P-3) and one General Service staff member (G-7, Local level).

61. Project personnel posts are funded through voluntary contributions. The Centre recruited additional programmatic support personnel for its public security and non-proliferation and arms control programmes. International consultants were contracted to support the Centre's private security-focused initiatives, the destruction project in Peru and the research project on ammunition control practices and trends in the region, as well as to assist with the development of new tools and guides aimed at supporting the implementation of instruments relating to small arms and weapons of mass destruction, including resolution 1540 (2004).

V. Conclusion

62. The Centre undertook 115 substantive activities to support States in their implementation of the Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument, the Arms Trade Treaty, Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and General Assembly resolution 65/69.

63. The Centre continued to expand its technical assistance in areas ranging from improving tracing capabilities to supporting weapons destruction processes, including that in Colombia. The Centre also continued to support young people in becoming agents of action in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and measuring progress made in implementing target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, States received assistance in strengthening their national frameworks on import/export controls for conventional weapons and dual-use goods, as well as small arms control mechanisms within the private security sector. The Centre supported States in their efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction through the provision of legal assistance and capacity-building workshops, including on maritime and port security. Useful and practical tools created by the Centre were also put to use by beneficiary States to aid in strengthening trade controls, while research papers contributed to the elaboration of programmes and policies on improving ammunition controls.

64. The Centre promoted the participation and role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control by ensuring a maximum number of female participants at all its events, reaching some 1,000 women. In that context, the Centre

implemented a project aimed at promoting the implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/69 at the regional level.

65. The Secretary-General reiterates his call upon those Member States and other partners in a position to do so to provide the Centre with the financial and in-kind support, including direct financial contributions from Latin American and Caribbean States, necessary for it to continue to carry out its mandate effectively and serve the needs of Member States in the region. The Secretary-General also encourages States to continue to fully utilize the Centre's expertise and experience in their joint efforts to promote peace, security and disarmament in the region.

Annex

Status of the trust fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2017

(United States dollars)

Accumulated surplus, 1 January 2017	**4 057 213**
Revenue	
Voluntary contributions	1 484 911[a]
Investment revenue	44 243
Other exchange revenue	110 890
Total revenue	**1 605 488**
Expenses	
Operating expenses	3 668 058
Refund to donors[b]	(34 556)
Total expenses	**3 668 058**
Surplus/(deficit)	(2 062 570)
Accumulated surplus	**1 994 643**

[a] Consists of voluntary contributions from donors as follows: El Salvador (through the Arms Trade Treaty voluntary trust fund), $28,500; Germany, $697,350; Guatemala (through the Arms Trade Treaty voluntary trust fund), $96,326; Panama, $7,000; Peru, $24,036; Sweden, $235,796; United States of America, $395,903.

[b] Consists of refunds to the following donors: Germany, $23,804; United States, $10,752.